UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.17/1993/11/Add.1
8 June 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
First session
14-25 June 1993
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

INITIAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, FINANCIAL FLOWS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FROM ALL AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES AND MECHANISMS, INCLUDING THOSE REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 33.14 OF AGENDA 21

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Information provided by Governments on initial financial commitments, financial flows and arrangements to give effect to the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

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I. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA) LEVELS 1/

1. Official development assistance (ODA) levels for various countries are given below.

Country	Financial year	Amount	Percentage of gross national product (GNP)
Australia	1992/93	A$ 1.384 billion 2/	0.36
Denmark	1992	US$ 1.35 billion 3/	1.00
Finland	1992	Fmk 3 billion 4/	0.62
Iceland	1993		0.13
Ireland	1993		0.20
Japan	1991	US$ 11.034 billion 3/	
Netherlands	1993		above 0.7
Norway	1992		above 1.00

II. DEBT RELIEF

A. Canada

2. Canada has sought new mechanisms of funding for sustainable development, and in this regard offered to convert $145 million of official development assistance (ODA) debt held by Latin American countries into local currency for environment and sustainable development projects.

B. Germany

3. The German Government has waived considerable amounts of the debt incurred under development assistance. A total of DM 9 billion (9 billion deutsche mark) has so far been waived in the case of the least developed countries and other highly indebted low-income countries. In connection with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the German Government has also created the possibility of waiving claims on other poor countries through a rescheduling arrangement in the Paris Club, if funds in local currency are then channelled into the environmental sector. The 1993 budget appropriation for this purpose is DM 50 million. Bolivia and Honduras will probably be the first to benefit from this option.

4. Since December 1991, the German Government has been waiving, within the enhanced Toronto terms, and on a case-by-case basis, 50 per cent of claims incurred from state-guaranteed commercial loans for particularly poor highly indebted developing countries. Through its membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the German Government also indirectly supports the Brady Initiative on debt reduction measures for bank loans (reductions of between 35 and 84 per cent); a total of US$ 40 billion has been waived so far.

III. AID PRIORITIES

A. Australia

5. Australia's ODA is guided by the following principles:

(a) Full participation in decision-making by those most affected by the development process;

(b) Management of renewable resources on an ecologically sustainable basis;

(c) Equitable distribution of benefits from the exploitation of resources;

(d) Intergenerational and intragenerational equity;

(e) Provision for rehabilitation of areas affected by exploitation of resources;

(f) In situ conservation of biological diversity (namely, natural habitats and ecosystems), supplemented by ex situ conservation measures such as gene banks;

(g) Protection of the health and communities of workers by adoption of standards recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO);

(h) In 1992/93 Australia's contribution to the multilateral development banks is expected to be A$ 150 million or 10.8 per cent of its ODA.

B. Canada

6. Support for sustainable development and environment planning is a priority for Canada's development assistance programme, and a number of projects, which Canada considers highly successful, are currently under way (major initiatives include projects in Indonesia, Zimbabwe and Pakistan).

C. Denmark

7. As a supplement to the 1 per cent ODA/GNP ratio and in order to strengthen the Danish contribution to solving international environmental problems and to ensure the necessary assistance in international emergency situations, the government budget for 1993 introduced a new budget line. The intention is to gradually increase the financial allocation within these areas to 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the year 2000.

8. The decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development have encouraged a focus on capacity-building and national environmental strategies. More emphasis is being given to the relationship between project objectives and the institutional set-up for projects and programmes.

D. Finland

9. Finland has set three principal objectives for development cooperation:

(a) Alleviating poverty;

(b) Combating global environmental threats by supporting developing countries in their efforts towards achieving this goal;

(c) Promoting democracy and human rights.

E. Germany

10. The percentage of projects with a special emphasis on the environmental component has increased substantially over the last few years. In 1993, the figure will be DM 1 billion, which represents over one quarter of total commitments. The DM 1 billion includes DM 300 million for forest conservation and related development activities (representing the same level as in previous years). Germany believes that since its development activities are primarily intended to provide for basic needs (planned commitment for 1993: 52 per cent of the total funds available), to support rural development (39 per cent) and to reduce poverty through self-help-oriented projects (9 per cent), its aid programme is very much aligned with the objectives of Agenda 21. 5/

F. Iceland

11. Bilateral aid is provided by the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA), mostly under programmes related to sustainable natural resource management, in particular research, education and training in fisheries.

G. Ireland

12. The priority focus of Irish aid is human development and the priority area of operation is sub-Saharan Africa. Criteria for sustainable development are being systematically implemented in project work in cooperation with recipient countries. Requests for assistance in the preparation of national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans will be sympathetically considered within the context of increasing capacity-building in recipient countries.

H. Japan

13. Asia is the priority region for Japanese assistance. Regarding regions other than Asia, Japan acknowledges that it is also necessary to be mindful of the poverty and economic difficulties in the world as a whole. Therefore it plans to extend cooperation to Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America, Eastern Europe and Oceania.

14. Japan has identified various priority issues with respect to its aid. Among them is the global approach to problems such as the environment and

population. Moreover, emphasis is being given to basic human needs aid and emergency aid. Importance is also attached to cooperation in improving and disseminating technology through human resources development and research cooperation. Finally, construction of infrastructure and structural adjustment are being considered priority issues.

I. Norway

15. The main objective for Norwegian development assistance is to contribute towards permanent improvement in the living conditions of inhabitants in developing countries. The development assistance is poverty-oriented, and emphasis is put on avoiding dependence on continued assistance. The main part of the assistance is allocated on a grant basis, and it is untied. A minor part is directed towards humanitarian emergency operations. A significant part of Norwegian development assistance, about 50 per cent, is distributed through multilateral channels.

J. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

16. The United Kingdom's priority objectives for official development assistance are:

(a) To promote economic reform and longer-term economic growth;

(b) To promote good government;

(c) To help developing countries define and carry out poverty reduction strategies;

(d) To promote human development, including better education and having children by choice;

(e) To promote the social, economic, legal and political status of women in developing countries;

(f) To help developing countries tackle national environmental problems.

IV. MAIN ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING RELEVANT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. Australia

17. Australia undertakes a range of development cooperation projects specifically aimed at achieving benefits for the environment. The principal vehicle for environmental activities under the aid programme is the Environment Assistance Programme (EAP). In the 1991/92 budget, the Australian Government provided total funding for the EAP in the amount of A$ 80 million over the four-year period from 1991/92 to 1994/95. Expenditure on environmental activities in 1992/93 is expected to be more than A$ 28 million.

18. Major areas of focus within the EAP are population, forestry, climate change, biodiversity, environment and conservation management.

19. Assistance programmes that address environmental objectives include the Development Import Finance Facility (DIFF), which assists Australian exporters to compete with foreign competitors for developmentally worthwhile projects. The programme combines development grant funds with concessional loans provided through the Export Finance Insurance Corporation (EFIC).

20. Under the total allocation to DIFF of A$ 120 million in 1992/93, it is estimated that A$ 12 million will be channelled into environmental projects. The major recipients of DIFF assistance are Indonesia, China, and India, with other recipients including Thailand, Bangladesh and other Asian countries as well as countries in the Pacific and Africa.

21. The 1992/93 budget also provided A$ 1.5 million for the non-governmental organization environment initiative that has been allocated to 28 environment and development projects undertaken by non-governmental organizations in developing countries. Through the EAP, Australia contributes to the International Tropical Timber Organization.

B. Austria

22. In the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) pilot phase (1991-1993), Austria contributed $400 million (400 million Austrian schillings) (approximately US$ 35 million), which were disbursed into the main fund of GEF, the so-called Global Environment Facility trust fund.

C. Canada

23. Canada continues to mobilize official development assistance resources to support developing countries in meeting the objectives of Agenda 21. Canada is increasing its support to developing countries in the areas of sustainable development and Agenda 21 objectives within the context of its overall development assistance.

24. The mandate of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) will be enlarged to encompass sustainable development and to help ensure a rapid start to the implementation of Agenda 21. IDRC receives annual funding of $115 million from the Government of Canada. These funds support a wide range of sustainable development-related programmes and projects in such areas as biodiversity, food security and environmental health impacts systems as well as research (on, inter alia, sustainable development indicators). IDRC is also developing a variety of information systems, including United Nations Conference on Environment and Development archives on compact disk read only memory (CD Rom) (as a joint effort with the United Nations Secretariat which provides all substantive inputs), and a range of electronic networks.

25. Canada has created the International Institute for Sustainable Development in order to promote a better understanding of the linkages between sustainability, competitiveness and prosperity in an international context.

26. A $10 million International Model Forests Network has been launched, which in the first phase involves three developing countries. Canada will host a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) conference on temperate and boreal forests in September 1993. Canada disburses $115 million annually in development assistance for forest-related projects. Following up its commitment to the protection of the oceans (see chap. 17 of Agenda 21), Canada hosted a meeting in Saint John's, Newfoundland, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Furthermore, Canada has offered to host a meeting of experts in 1994 to update the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, as part of the process leading to a conference on land-based sources of marine pollution.

27. Canada reconfirms its strong commitment to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and has doubled its annual contribution. Finally, Canada recently hosted an informal meeting of environment ministers in Magog, Quebec, to discuss priorities for the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the coming year.

28. Canada, through the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is leading the development of analytical and planning tools for capacity development in environment. Furthermore, Canada will be hosting in October 1993 an OECD workshop on National Plans for Sustainable Development, and is providing funding for developing country participation. Through IDRC, Canada is actively involved in a series of international workshops on sustainable development planning for multi-stake holders. IDRC has also been helping to establish a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sustainable development network. Finally, Canada is contributing $2 million to UNDP's Capacity 21 initiative, which will help developing countries prepare national sustainable development plans.

29. Canada's progress in meeting its United Nations Conference on Environment and Development commitments in the fields of technology transfer, cooperation and capacity development has advanced along a variety of fronts. The scope of these efforts ranges from helping other countries to develop their own national plans for sustainable development - and providing them with the ability to analyse and interpret technical data for monitoring and managing resources - to supporting regional scientific research efforts that will help less developed countries build their own capacities for conducting the science and applying the technology that will enable them to carry out their national plans.

30. IDRC has been given an expanded mandate to assist in the infusion of sustainable development research and technological capacity into developing countries. In response, IDRC has identified six priority themes to fulfil its new role over the next three years. One of the six is "Technology and the Environment". An IDRC working group has been established to plan and manage activities in this field.

31. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has established an Industrial Cooperation Program which is managing numerous transfers of technology involving food science testing; Geographical Information System (GIS) resource inventories; and waste management techniques for application to petroleum, mineral and medical wastes.

32. Canada is preparing a complete inventory of all federal programmes that are following through on the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Among other things, this strategy will consider the capacity of Canadian industries and institutions to build capacity and transfer technology to less developed countries. Canada is also involved in the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, a regional organization that will be building capacity and transferring the necessary technologies to countries throughout the Americas to conduct scientific research. The Institute's scientific experts have set a research agenda that addresses changes to tropical and temperate ecosystems; biochemical cycles; biodiversity; high-latitude processes; El Niño Southern Oscillation weather patterns; and relationships between ocean, atmosphere and land processes.

33. The Canadian Office for Training in the Environment was established in 1992 in recognition of the global priority accorded to the transfer of environmental technologies to less developed countries, and the role that Canadian expertise could play with respect to fostering that international objective. The Office's twofold focus - on cooperation with less developed countries and on direct involvement by industry - represents a further concrete contribution by Canada to East-West and North-South dialogues on environmental matters.

D. Denmark

34. Environmental protection is an integral part of Danish development policy, and sustainable development strategies have already been elaborated and will be further developed in light of the objectives of Agenda 21.

35. In order to implement the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development decisions to strengthen national capacities and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries, the Government of Denmark is favourably inclined towards making a contribution to UNDP's Capacity 21 initiative.

E. Finland

36. In order to improve the ecological and social sustainability of bilateral development projects and programmes, the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) has been continuing the integration work of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure in the course of its activities.

37. Finland's contribution to the Environment Fund (Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme) for 1992 was Fmk 20.5 million, and to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Fmk 3 million.

38. Finland has actively supported countries with economies in transition, especially the Baltic States and the Russian Federation. A great share of this assistance has been designated to help these countries resolve their most urgent environmental problems in the neighbouring regions of Finland. In the period 1991-1992, Finland supported environmental projects in this area with budgetary contributions amounting to Fmk 114 million.

39. Finland has participated in the enhancement of the global environment by supporting the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in the period 1991-1993 with approximately Fmk 35 million annually.

F. France

40. The French contribution to the Environment Fund will be doubled compared with the initial effort (involving FF 900 million over a three-year period) to which France subscribed in 1990.

41. Furthermore, France intends to increase its assistance effort for the sectors related to Agenda 21. The increase envisaged for 1993 in relation to 1992 is of the magnitude of 10 per cent through bilateral channels, France's main sectors of interest being the following:

(a) Fresh water resources;

(b) Mineral resources;

(c) Urban environment;

(d) Energy;

(e) Forestry.

42. In accordance with the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particular attention will be given to projects initiated by non-governmental organizations and local communities in those sectors. The strengthening of institutional and technological capacities will be subject to specific evaluation.

43. France maintains its support to national environment action plans. In 1993, about FF 100 million should be granted to either the preparation of these plans or their implementation in Madagascar, Seychelles, Benin, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi and Rwanda.

44. The commitments of France in 1993 for key programmes of Agenda 21 (in millions of French francs) may be summarized as follows:

Actions in the area of urban environment	550
Urban water management	415
Rural development	200
Forests	63
Rural water-supply	70
Energy	110
Industry	127
Research	
	1 615

G. Germany

45. Germany's 1993 development budget provides for the following initiatives for the implementation of Agenda 21 as set forth in its chapter 33:

(a) Support for the Capacity 21 programme proposed by UNDP. The Budgetary Committee of the German Parliament has stipulated, however, that a final decision from the Committee is to be made during the implementation of the 1993 budget before the funds are released;

(b) Allocation of additional funds for international non-governmental organizations which, in the view of Germany, are in a position to support developing countries in an efficient and unbureaucratic manner, particularly at the local and regional levels;

(c) An increase in funds allocated to international agricultural research, particularly to assist in developing the newly founded international forestry research institute.

46. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Germany proposed a replenishment of SDR 3 billion (3 billion in special drawing rights) (approximately DM 6.7 billion) for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is prepared to make its contribution provided there is proper burden-sharing.

H. Iceland

47. Since 1979, Iceland has operated a postgraduate geothermal training programme, under the aegis of the United Nations University, that trains 16 students per year. Iceland considers this project to be highly successful.

I. Ireland

48. A programme adopted following the general election in December 1992 contains an explicit commitment to spend new resources on projects covered by Agenda 21 as part of the Irish national ODA budget.

49. As part of this commitment, new and additional resources have already been earmarked for 1993 under the Irish Bilateral Aid Programme for expenditure in key sectors identified in Agenda 21. Priority is being given to human development projects (60 per cent), and water resources projects (25 per cent), as well as those in the areas of forestry and conservation, and the urban and rural environment.

50. In the area of water resource projects, part of these funds are being spent in 1993 on drinking-water supply and sanitation projects in the United Republic of Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda. Funds are also being provided for non-governmental organization activities in this context.

51. Activities related to the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building have formed a basic part of the Irish Government's Bilateral Aid Programme since its inception. Since the United

Nations Conference on Environment and Development, greater attention has been given to these areas. In particular, new and additional resources are being devoted to training hydrologists from developing countries.

J. Italy

52. Italy is focusing its attention on the following issues:

(a) Technology transfer;

(b) Deforestation;

(c) Desertification and drought;

(d) Agriculture and rural development;

(e) Atmosphere;

(f) Water-supply;

(g) Human settlements;

(h) Solid wastes.

53. The Italian Parliament is currently discussing the Government's proposal to contribute 5 million dollars to the Rain Forest Trust Fund.

54. A decision has been taken to prepare a national programme on global climate, to be approved by the end of 1993. The programme shall coordinate and integrate research in such areas as:

(a) Mathematical models of climate, with a focus on regional analysis and the forecasting of climate change in the Mediterranean area;

(b) Monitoring of climate and of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by ground surveys and remote sensing;

(c) Monitoring of streams in the Mediterranean Sea and of their influence on climate;

(d) Interrelations between socio-economic factors and climate.

55. Inter-ministerial working groups are involved in the formulation of a national plan for the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 6/ and of Agenda 21, and in preparations to present in Parliament guidelines for a "Report on environment and sustainable development" to be discussed every year, starting from 1993.

56. As regards the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, analysis of Italian experience and capacity useful for the implementation of Agenda 21 is now under way with a view to promoting the

transfer of such technologies through multilateral and bilateral programmes of technological partnership. Specific areas include:

(a) Technologies for the remote sensing from satellites of sea and shore pollution, eutrophication of coastal areas and sea basins, sea streams, atmosphere circulation, land use, desertification and forests;

(b) Weather monitoring and forecasting as well as climate modelling on a regional basis;

(c) Technologies for the implementation and the operation of integrated land monitoring databases, and the simulation of different schemes of land uses for more dynamic planning;

(d) Technology and experience in planning and implementation of activities in the area of rural development, in particular in semi-arid zones, as well as in the area of natural farming, involving a reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides;

(e) Experience in employing barriers against desertification and development of oases in north Africa;

(f) Technologies for the determination of hydro-geologic area patterns and construction of integrated infrastructures for the supply of water;

(g) Experience in the design and operation of plants for the generation of electricity with a reduced emission of pollutants (clean coal combustion, co-generation, fuel cells);

(h) Technologies for the reduction of the energy intensity in industries, particularly in the highly intensive ones, such as the glass, ceramic and concrete industries;

(i) Technologies for bioclimatic building, energy saving in housing and teleheating;

(j) Technologies and plants for the exploitation of solar, wind and mini-hydraulic (small waterfalls, waterworks and irrigation canals) energies;

(k) Experiences of the ecological reclamation of lakes, river and coastal areas and lagoons contaminated by residential, agricultural and industrial sewages;

(l) Technologies for the production of goods that are more easily recycled;

(m) Waste treatment and disposal:

(i) Experience of integral regional planning of solid waste treatment;

(ii) Technologies for sewage and waste treatment and for heat generation from urban wastes;

(iii) In the field of industrial wastes disposal, technologies related to management and recovery of raw materials, by-products and energy, as well as to final disposal of mechanical industry wastes.

57. Italian financial commitment to multilateral organizations dealing with sustainable development is of the order of 1.5 billion dollars, including the contribution to the tranche of 600 million in European currency units (ECUs) within the initiative launched by the European Economic Community (EEC). Additional financial implications related to the implementation of Agenda 21 are now being reviewed and considered.

K. Japan

58. The Government of Japan has increased its contributions to UNEP. For 1993, it has contributed a total of US$ 11 million - $9 million for the Environment Fund (Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme) and $2 million for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund of UNEP. In addition, in October 1992 the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centres were established in Japan (Osaka and Shiga) with in-kind contributions equivalent to $1 million. These centres have as their goal advancing the transfer of environmental technology to developing countries.

59. In 1993 the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) received a contribution from the Government of Japan amounting to US$ 12.69 million.

60. The Government of Japan has committed the sum of US$ 9.62 million in 1993 as a contribution to the fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

61. Japan is expanding its official development assistance to developing countries in the field of the environment. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Japan announced that it would expand its bilateral and multilateral ODA in the field of the environment to approximately 900 billion yen (US$ 7.1 billion) to 1 trillion yen (US$ 7.8 billion) in the five-year period starting in financial year 1992. In financial year 1992 alone, it is estimated that Japan's environmental aid rose to about 280 billion yen ($2.4 billion).

62. For the period 1991-1993, the Government of Japan has contributed to the GEF core fund the sum of US$ 11 million on a grant basis. It has also pledged $180 million for the same period under the co-financing arrangements of GEF.

63. Japan's environmental aid in financial year 1992 is estimated to have been approximately 280 billion yen including various projects world wide, namely in Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, China and Malaysia. Other areas of Japan's environmental aid include forest conservation and afforestation, pollution control, including reduction of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions and prevention of acid rain, and protection of wildlife. Japan's aid focuses on protection of wildlife, training programmes on saving energy and protection of the ozone layer, and concentrates as well on enhancement of the capacity of developing countries to cope with

environmental problems, drafting of environmental guidelines and promotion of the environmental dialogue with developing countries.

L. Netherlands

64. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development the Netherlands indicated that within the budget allocation for official development assistance, which exceeded the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, financial resources available for the promotion of environmentally sound development in developing countries will increase to reach a total of almost US$ 250 million per annum starting in 1994.

M. Norway

65. Contributions from a specially established environmental fund are distributed through both multilateral and bilateral channels. A significant part of resources from this fund is allocated to assist developing countries in developing their national environmental strategies and environmental managerial plans.

66. Norway's assistance to countries in Eastern Europe is in addition to and separate from the budget for official development assistance. Contributions to environment and development measures in Eastern Europe correspond to about NKr 500 million (500 million in Norwegian kroner) (around US$ 74 million) in 1993.

N. Sweden

67. Sweden considers capacity-building to be one of the most important factors for developing countries in the process of aiming at a sustainable development.

68. Swedish bilateral development assistance programmes directed towards a follow-up of Agenda 21 will be focused on capacity-building and on projects related to sustainable use of natural resources, including sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as to freshwater issues, renewable energy resources and coastal zone management.

69. New and additional financial resources are being used to support an international conference, convened by Sweden, on risk assessment and risk management of chemical substances. Substantial backing will also be directed to preparing and carrying through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conference on plant genetic resources, as well as to studies on technical assessments of biotechnology and country studies within the United Nations framework of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/AC.237/18 (Part II/Add.1)). Sweden also attaches great importance to the role of women in the implementation of Agenda 21 and will support relevant activities in this respect within the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

O. Switzerland

70. The Swiss Government recognizes the necessity of additional resources in the field of global environment. It takes an active part in the negotiations aimed at the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility. During the three-year pilot phase, Switzerland has been contributing 4 per cent of GEF resources, which constitutes more than its usual part in such entities. The Swiss authorities welcome in principle the increase of the facility's capital and express their readiness to contribute substantially to the next phase.

71. The Swiss authorities established an inter-ministerial structure to deal with all issues relating to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. That structure is designed to facilitate an integrative decision-making process, as well as to foster coherent national policies. This structure recently established thematic working groups. The federal Administration and representatives of all the different segments concerned, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, are using those working groups to develop common and innovative approaches and solutions to specific elements of the Agenda 21.

72. One of these groups is in charge of finding ways to facilitate transfer of technology and technological cooperation. This group is action-oriented and develops its activities as an operational clearing-house.

P. United Kingdom

73. The United Kingdom has committed £40.3 million (40.3 million pounds sterling) to the core facility of the GEF pilot phase to help developing countries tackle global environmental issues. The United Kingdom stands ready to contribute its share to a replenishment of GEF.

V. SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

A. Australia

74. Through the EAP, Australia contributes to the fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

75. Australia is committed to co-financing the GEF pilot phase, contributing A$ 30 million over a seven-year period (1991-1992 to 1997-1998). To date, Australia has indicated an interest in co-financing the following GEF activities:

(a) Biodiversity conservation in the South Pacific;

(b) Promotion of electric energy efficiency in Thailand;

(c) Least-cost greenhouse gas emission plans in South-East Asia;

(d) Regional management of pollution in South-East Asian seas.

76. Australian aid expenditure is also channelled through the various multilateral development banks. These include the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Development Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association and the International Finance Corporation.

B. Denmark

77. Denmark will be ready to contribute its fair share of a threefold increase in GEF.

C. Finland

78. Finland supported the Interim Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol with approximately Fmk 2 million in 1992.

79. It is envisaged that Finland will assist developing countries in the preparation of country studies falling within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as studies on combating desertification.

D. France

80. Through the Francophonie programmes, emphasis will be given to promoting consultations with French-speaking developing countries, particularly within the context of negotiations with respect to an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, inter alia, through financing of expert seminars, as well as within that of preparation of such items as national reports.

E. Germany

81. The German Government is ready to launch immediate measures before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity enter into force and will be earmarking DM 10 million in the 1993 budget for programmes to implement these Conventions. These funds will be available to interested developing countries over and above its regular bilateral commitments. In addition, environmental projects have already begun in cooperation with the central and Eastern European States and the Commonwealth of Independent States, particularly the Russian Federation, Poland and Hungary.

F. Ireland

82. Ireland is making a contribution to the fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

G. Netherlands

83. In addition to the current commitments for development assistance, the Netherlands has announced that it will provide new and additional financial resources up to a maximum of 0.1 per cent of GNP for implementing activities in developing countries related to global environmental agreements, provided that other countries will take a similar course.

H. Norway

84. A national "climate fund" has been established. Norway's contributions to GEF as well as to certain climate projects are among those financed from this fund. For the time being, the fund amounts to NKr 75 million per year (about US$ 11 million). Norway's contributions to the fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are financed separately from the ODA budget.

I. Sweden

85. Sweden intends to actively participate in the restructuring and replenishment process of GEF. In light of the process of establishing conventions and other ongoing negotiations on issues within the framework of GEF, we foresee a substantial rise in demand as well as replenishment for the next period.

86. Sweden expresses its support of the ongoing process to negotiate a convention to combat desertification. This includes contributions for the extrabudgetary funds, country studies and an expert meeting that Sweden will convene. This support is covered by new and additional financial resources.

J. United Kingdom

87. The British Prime Minister launched at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development the Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species. The Initiative aims to support the Convention on Biological Diversity through providing assistance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural habitats. The Initiative will help to fund and encourage important biodiversity work both in the United Kingdom and in developing countries. It is intended to fill gaps in existing work and support new and innovative projects.

88. Six million pounds sterling (£6 million) in new and additional resources will be made available during the period from 1993/94 to 1995/96 to fund projects that meet the objectives of the Initiative. Non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, industry and international experts are participating in the drawing up of priorities for the Initiative.

89. The United Kingdom has contributed US$ 13.8 million to the fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and stands ready to contribute additional resources.

Notes

1/ According to information provided by Governments.

2/ Denotes 1.384 billion Australian dollars.

3/ Net disbursements.

4/ Denotes 3 billion markkaa.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

6/ Ibid., resolution 1, annex I.